



Two distinct agricultural regions are defined by the forest region in the south and the drier savanna region in the north. The forest region produces most export crops because it has better soils, as well as higher and more reliable rainfall. Common export crops are palm oil, coconut oil, rubber, cocoa and coffee (grown in the forest zone), and cotton and sugar crops are grown in the north, or savanna zone.

Principal cereal crops are paddy rice, corn, sorghum, and millet; and principal food crops are the *féculents*, or starches such yams, plantains, cassava, and taro. Most rice is grown west of the Bandama River and yams are commonly grown east of the river. Corn is grown throughout the country, where a single corn crop is grown per year in the north and two corn crops per year are common in the south. Most corn is grown in the northwest and other food crops include taro (in the south), varieties of millet and sorghum (in the north), and cassava (both north and south). Cassava (manioc) serves as a hedge against famine, because they can be intercropped with other crops and left in the ground for several years without damage. Two cassava plantings per year are common in the south, while only a single planting per year is possible in the north. Plantains, which are from the same genus as bananas, require sustained rainfall in the south and are often intercropped with cocoa.